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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

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4. The 1994 international meeting on population.*

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   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

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* See also the provisional agenda for the Population Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population (E/CONF.84/PC/1).

READEX FICHE

6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984.

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session the Population Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required.

At past sessions, the Commission has elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Population Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council, by decision 1989/170, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Commission.

3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974

(a) General debate on national experience in population matters

At its twenty-fifth session, the Population Commission concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate, during which members would be able to exchange views and national experience in the area of population. That conclusion was approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1989/170.

(b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure

The Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-eighth session, in 1975, considered the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and the resolutions and recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974. In decision 87 (LVIII) on the role of the Population Commission in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, the Council requested the Population Commission to examine on a biennial basis the results of the continuous process of monitoring of population trends and policies, in accordance with paragraph 107 of the Plan of Action, and to bring its findings to the attention of the Council.

The General Assembly, in resolution 39/228, endorsed the recommendation of the International Conference on Population, 1984, that the monitoring of population trends and policies and review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action continue to be undertaken by the Secretary-General, as specified in the Plan. The

request for a report on the monitoring of population trends and policies was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1985/4.

The Population Commission has reviewed six reports of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population trends and policies, in 1977, 1979, 1981, 1984, 1987 and 1989. At its twenty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it the seventh report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, containing a special section on past trends and future prospects for age structure.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of the world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2)

4. The 1994 international meeting on population*

In resolution 1989/91, the Economic and Social Council decided, in principle, to convene in 1994, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population. It also decided to designate the Population Commission, meeting in open-ended session, with the participation of any Member of the United Nations that was not a member of the Commission and of any other State, as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population. It requested the Population Commission to consider at its twenty-sixth session, and to report to the Council on (a) the further elaboration and refinement of the objectives of the international meeting on population; (b) the issues to be discussed at the meeting; (c) the nature of the preparatory work for the meeting; (d) the assignment of responsibilities for the preparation of the meeting to organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Council then requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary organizational arrangements, and to submit to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, a detailed report on the state of the preparations for the international meeting on population, including (a) the financial implications of alternative preparatory options and (b) measures proposed to ensure the participation and co-ordination of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

Finally, the Council requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to obtain resources for the international meeting on population and to report to the Council, through the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, on the results of those efforts.

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* See the annotated provisional agenda for the population Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population (E/CONF.84/1/Add.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5)

5. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance and implementation

On the recommendation of the Population Commission at its twenty-fifth session, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1989/93, requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue to give high priority to the monitoring of world population trends and policies, including in-depth consideration of special topics, and to continue to work on studies on the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, with particular attention to studies to promote the integration of population factors into development planning; studies on the interrelationships between the status and role of women and population; the comparative analysis of population policies; periodic revision of estimates and projections of population and its structure and of urbanization; the analysis of mortality, in particular infant and child mortality; studies on reproductive behaviour and on family planning and its demographic impact; studies on internal and international migration and on comparative patterns of urbanization and population distribution; the dissemination of population information and further development of the Population Information Network (POPIN) at the regional and global levels.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to start substantive preparatory work for the international meeting on population in 1994, as appropriate; to continue to work closely with Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, in the implementation of programmes; and to further improve communication and co-ordination between the Population Division of the Secretariat, the regional commissions and Governments, particularly in order to prepare the most accurate and widely accepted population estimates and projections possible, an activity in which the Population Division should play a leading role.

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen interdisciplinary technical co-operation activities in the field of population, including the utilization of technical co-operation among developing countries, as appropriate, in the areas of training in demography and matters related to population and development, including courses to upgrade knowledge and skills, particularly in the use of microcomputer software; evaluation and analysis of basic population data, particularly from the 1990 round of population censuses, dissemination and utilization of the results and use of computer technology, ensuring technical co-ordination at the national level in the process; and formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes in the context of national development plans, with special attention to cultural and socio-economic conditions at the subnational level. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to continue to evaluate and analyse experience with technical co-operation activities in the field of population and publish studies thereon.

In addition, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session a report on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations.

Finally, the Council re-emphasized the importance of maintaining the scope, effectiveness and efficiency of the global population programme and of continuing to strengthen co-ordination and collaboration among the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions, the United Nations Population Fund and other organizations of the United Nations system in the planning and execution of their population programmes, as well as the need for organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen co-ordination and collaboration with Member States, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental and national organizations, as appropriate.

For its consideration of these activities, the Commission will have before it a report on the progress of work in the field of population since its last session.

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/238, the Commission will have before it excerpts from the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/45/218 and Add.1) and of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16).

In response to the request of the Economic and Social Council that, in carrying out the programme of work specified in its resolution 1989/93, the Secretary-General should continue to work closely with Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, the following six meetings were held in co-operation with other organizations:

Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants, convened jointly with the Universities of Pisa and Firenze, San Miniato, Italy, 27-30 March 1990;

Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, New York, 6-8 June 1990;

Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Policies in Mega-cities, convened jointly with the United Nations University, Tokyo, 22-26 October 1990;

International Conference on the Aging Family, convened jointly with the Municipal Government of Kitakyushu, in collaboration with the Japan Aging Research Center and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Kitakyushu, Japan, 15-19 October 1990;

Symposium on Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning, convened with the co-operation of the Latvian State University and the Programme in Population and Development Planning in Moscow State University, Riga, USSR, 4-8 December 1989;

Expert Group Meeting on Population and Human Rights, convened jointly with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Geneva, 3-6 April 1989.

The summary reports and recommendations of these meetings will be made available to the Commission.

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

At its forty-fifth session, The General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget (resolution 45/253). The plan includes a programme on population (A/45/6 (Prog. 18)), which will be made available to the Commission as a background document.

The Commission will have before it, for discussion, a note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the relevant United Nations Secretariat units in New York for the biennium 1992-1993, drawn up in accordance with the strategy described in the programme on population of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

The Secretariat will, as appropriate, submit proposals for revisions to the programme on population of the medium-term plan, covering the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1991/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (E/CN.9/1991/3/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations (E/CN.9/1991/5)

6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984

In resolution 1987/72 on the follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a regular basis, reports on the

activities of the United Nations system in the field of population, on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action and on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance; it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to continue to submit to the Population Commission, on a regular basis, a report on the activities of the Fund; and invited the Population Commission to review those reports, within its competence, and to transmit its views to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session.

In addition, in decision 1989/170, the Council approved the inclusion in the documentation for the twenty-sixth session of the Population Commission of a report of the Secretary-General on population and the environment.

Documentation

Concise report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2)*

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1991/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8)

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on activities of the Fund (E/CN.9/1991/9)

The parts of the reports and decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (E/1989/32 and E/1990/29) dealing with the United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on interrelationships between population and environment in rural areas of developing countries (E/CN.9/1991/6)

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

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* See also the annotations to item 3 (b).

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation and, in particular, 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council. In paragraph 1 (j) of resolution 1982/50, the Council urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn in particular to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which it is stated that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly should be streamlined in order to enable them to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; that the Council and the Assembly should continue to review the provisional agenda for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and that, in doing so, the Council and the Assembly should also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation of their subsidiary machinery.

Further, the Council, in resolution 1981/83, instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agenda and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of each session.